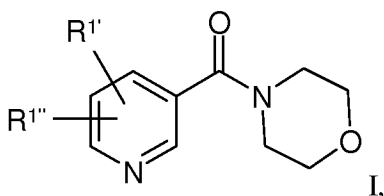


This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended): A process ~~Process~~ for the reductive preparation of ~~nicotinaldehydes~~ a nicotinicaldehyde, said process comprising performing reduction on ~~characterised in that the starting materials employed for the reduction are~~ the corresponding nicotinic acid morpholinamide in the presence of a reducing agent ~~morpholinamides~~ to obtain said nicotinicaldehyde.

2. (Currently Amended): A process ~~Process~~ according to Claim 1, ~~characterised in that the starting materials employed are~~ wherein said nicotinic acid morpholinamide is ~~morpholinamides of the formula I~~



wherein in which

R^{1'}, R^{1''} are each, independently of one another, ~~denotes~~ H, Hal, A, OA, CH₂R² or Ar,

R² is ~~denotes~~ OA or NA₂,

A is ~~denotes~~ unbranched or branched alkyl having 1-10 C atoms, in which one or two CH₂ groups are each optionally ~~may be~~ replaced by an O or S atom or atoms and/or by a -CH=CH- group groups and/or also 1-7 H atoms are each optionally ~~may be~~ replaced by F, or A is cyclopropyl, cyclobutyl, cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl, cycloheptyl, cyclooctyl, 2,6,6-trimethylbicyclo[3.1.1]heptyl, p-menthane, menthol, pinane, bornane, camphor, or adamantly,

Ar is ~~denotes~~ an unsaturated, partially or fully saturated, mono- or polycyclic homo- or heterocyclic system wherein with the hetero atoms are each O, N, or S, and which is unsubstituted or mono- or polysubstituted by Hal, A, OA, NA₂, NO₂, NASO₂A, SO₂NA, SO₂A, and

Hal ~~is~~ denotes F, Cl, Br or I.

3. (Currently Amended): ~~A process~~ Process according to Claim 1, ~~characterised in that the starting material employed~~ wherein said nicotinic acid morpholinamide is 5-(4-fluorophenyl)nicotinic acid morpholinamide.

4. (Currently Amended): ~~A process~~ Process according to Claim 1, ~~characterised in that the starting material employed~~ wherein said nicotinic acid morpholinamide is 5-bromopyridine-3-carboxylic acid morpholinamide.

5. (Currently Amended): ~~A process~~ Process according to Claim 1, ~~characterised in that the~~ wherein said reducing agent is ~~agents employed are~~ $\text{LiAlH}(\text{OEt})_3$, $\text{LiAlH}_2(\text{OEt})_2$ or $\text{LiAlH}_3(\text{OEt})$.

6. (Cancelled):

7. (Cancelled):

8. (Currently Amended): ~~A process~~ Starting materials of the formula I according to Claim 1, ~~wherein said nicotinic acid morpholinamide is selected from a group consisting of~~ (a) 5-(4-fluorophenyl)nicotinic acid morpholinamide or ~~or~~ $[[.]]$ (b) 5-bromonicotinic acid morpholinamide.

9. (New): A process according to Claim 1, wherein the reducing agent for said reduction is $\text{LiAlH}_{(4-n)}(\text{OR})_n$, where n is 1, 2 or 3, and R in each case is methyl, ethyl or tert-butyl.

10. (New): A process according to Claim 2, wherein R^1 , $\text{R}^{1''}$ are each, independently of one another, hydrogen, methoxy, ethoxy, propoxy, butoxy, fluorine, chlorine, bromine, iodine, phenyl, or o, m or p-substituted phenyl.

11. (New): A process according to Claim 2, wherein R^{1'} is p-fluorophenyl or bromine and R^{1''} is hydrogen.
12. (New): A process according to Claim 2, wherein Hal is fluorine, chlorine or bromine.
13. (New): A process according to Claim 2, wherein A is unbranched or branched alkyl having 1-10 C atoms, in which one or two CH₂ groups are each optionally replaced by an O or S atom or by a -CH=CH- group and/or also 1-7 H atoms are each optionally replaced by F.
14. (New): A process according to Claim 13, wherein A is methyl, ethyl, propyl, isopropyl, butyl, isobutyl, sec-butyl, tert-butyl, pentyl, 1-, 2- or 3-methylbutyl, 1,1-, 1,2- or 2,2-dimethylpropyl, 1-ethylpropyl, hexyl, 1-, 2-, 3- or 4-methylpentyl, 1,1-, 1,2-, 1,3-, 2,2-, 2,3- or 3,3-dimethylbutyl, 1- or 2-ethylbutyl, 1-ethyl-1-methylpropyl, 1-ethyl-2-methylpropyl, 1,1,2- or 1,2,2-trimethylpropyl, or trifluoromethyl.
15. (New): A process according to Claim 13, wherein A is methyl, ethyl, propyl, isopropyl, butyl, isobutyl, sec-butyl, tert-butyl, pentyl, hexyl, trifluoromethyl, pentafluoroethyl, or 1,1,1-trifluoroethyl.
16. (New): A process according to Claim 2, wherein Ar is unsubstituted or substituted phenyl, naphthyl or biphenyl.
17. (New): A process according to Claim 2, wherein Ar is phenyl, o-, m- or p-tolyl, o-, m- or p-cyanophenyl, o-, m- or p-methoxyphenyl, o-, m- or p-fluorophenyl, o-, m- or p-bromophenyl, o-, m- or p-chlorophenyl, 2,3-, 2,4-, 2,5-, 2,6-, 3,4- or 3,5-difluorophenyl, 2,3-, 2,4-, 2,5-, 2,6-, 3,4- or 3,5-dichlorophenyl, 2,3-, 2,4-, 2,5-, 2,6-, 3,4- or 3,5-dibromophenyl, 2-fluoro-4-bromophenyl, or 2,5-difluoro-4-bromophenyl.
18. (New): A process according to Claim 2, wherein

R^{1'}, R^{1''} are each, independently of one another, hydrogen, methoxy, ethoxy, propoxy, butoxy, fluorine, chlorine, bromine, iodine, phenyl, or o, m or p-substituted phenyl;

Hal is fluorine, chlorine or bromine;

A is methyl, ethyl, propyl, isopropyl, butyl, isobutyl, sec-butyl, tert-butyl, pentyl, 1-, 2- or 3-methylbutyl, 1,1-, 1,2- or 2,2-dimethylpropyl, 1-ethylpropyl, hexyl, 1-, 2-, 3- or 4-methylpentyl, 1,1-, 1,2-, 1,3-, 2,2-, 2,3- or 3,3-dimethylbutyl, 1- or 2-ethylbutyl, 1-ethyl-1-methylpropyl, 1-ethyl-2-methylpropyl, 1,1,2- or 1,2,2-trimethylpropyl, trifluoromethyl, cyclopropyl, cyclobutyl, cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl, cycloheptyl, cyclooctyl, 2,6,6-trimethylbicyclo[3.1.1]heptyl, p-menthane, menthol, pinane, bornane, camphor, or adamantyl; and

Ar is phenyl, o-, m- or p-tolyl, o-, m- or p-cyanophenyl, o-, m- or p-methoxyphenyl, o-, m- or p-fluorophenyl, o-, m- or p-bromophenyl, o-, m- or p-chlorophenyl, 2,3-, 2,4-, 2,5-, 2,6-, 3,4- or 3,5-difluorophenyl, 2,3-, 2,4-, 2,5-, 2,6-, 3,4- or 3,5-dichlorophenyl, 2,3-, 2,4-, 2,5-, 2,6-, 3,4- or 3,5-dibromophenyl, 2-fluoro-4-bromophenyl, or 2,5-difluoro-4-bromophenyl.

19. (New): A process according to Claim 2, wherein the reduction is carried out in an inert solvent, and said solvent is selected from hexane, petroleum ether, benzene, toluene or xylene; ethers, such as diethyl ether, diisopropyl ether, tetrahydrofuran, dioxane, ethylene glycol dimethyl ether, and mixtures of thereof.

20. (New): A process according to Claim 19, wherein the amount of solvent is 10 g to 100 g of solvent per g of nicotinic acid morpholinamide.

21. (New): A process according to Claim 2, wherein the reduction is performed at a temperature between -10° and 100°.

22. (New): A process according to Claim 19, wherein the reduction is performed at a temperature between -10° and 100°.